



Alternate Channel

The newsletter for and about the members of the
LOUDOUN COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SYSTEM

JUNE 2002



Hitch-Van Praag Wedding

Congratulations to Katherine Hitch and Walter Van Praag of the Middleburg Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company, who were married on Saturday, April 27th at Sky Meadow State Park.

Story on Page 3

Inside This Issue:

- **So Now It's Too Late To Train.....Page 2**
- **Hitch-VanPraag WeddingPage 3**
- **Highlights-Fire Council Meeting.....Page 3**
- **NOVA TF-8 Disaster Task Force.....Page 5**
- **CAD Streets.....Page 8**

Alternate Channel

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Alternate Channel

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Deadline Submission

Date:

Submissions for the Alternate Channel issues are due by the first business day of the previous month.

Example:

May 1st for June Issue

August 1st for July Issue

Company Reporters:

Co. 1 Patty Murphy-Csizmadia
Co. 2 Robin Dryden
Co. 3 Walter Van Praag
Co. 4 Betty Dodge/Cyndi Vest
Co. 5 Jim Reed
Co. 6 Kay Parker
Co. 7 Jeannie Cooper
Co. 8 William D. Schwartz
Co. 9 Sara Chamblin Case
Co.10 Linda Hobbie
Co.11 David Short
Co.12 Greg Dailey
Co.13 Amy Harper
Co.14 Sue Johnson
Co.15 Wilma Grant
Co.16 Jim Dunagin
Co.17 Rodney Krone, Jr.

...SO NOW IT'S TOO LATE TO TRAIN....

No time to attend training or simply avoiding the standard classroom setting with practical scenarios? How about the early evening calls after you have checked the apparatus and it is 2100 hours. Who wants training to begin this late in the day? I offer this suggestion for personnel geared towards training at anytime. Training does not always take place in the classroom setting. We learn from magazines, videos, independent reading, and filing past experiences away in our minds to be used later in life. However, we do not get "tested" to measure our competency from self-study learning. Through the use of the Internet and CD-ROM productions, this is starting to change.

Many people are under the "crunch" of time restraints when deciding priorities in serving our organizations. The idea of a two income family is no longer the idea, but a reality. Added with family commitments, organization dedication, and inner peace (the space that we just need for ourselves), training can take the back-step within our priority pyramids. I offer a suggestion for those who still wish to continue the pursuit of wisdom and those of us who are self-motivated.

As you may or may not be aware, the National Fire Academy offers several self-study courses for persons wishing to maintain a state of continued training. The courses are offered as both written text and CD-ROM based deliveries that range from reading comprehension to interactive simulations. The time expended in the course can range from thirty minutes to numerous hours. It is an excellent resource that can breathe "new life" into your training regime. Below is an excerpt taken from the National Fire Academy's web page:

"Due to space and budget limitations, NFA cannot accept all qualified applicants for courses at the Emmitsburg campus. Also, many volunteer and career fire service personnel do not have the time to attend on-campus programs. To reach these students, the Academy offers the following courses as Self-Study or CD-ROM:"

1. Principles of Building Construction: Combustible
2. Principles of Building Construction: Noncombustible
3. Fire Service Supervision (FSS) (Q318)
4. Self-Study course for Community Safety Educators
5. Emergency Response to Terrorism: Self-Study (ERT:SS) (Q534)
6. Incident Command System Self-Study
7. Fire Safe Building Design for Architects and Designers
8. Testing and Evaluation of Water Supplies for Fire Protection
9. Technical Principles and Practices of Fire Prevention
10. Wildland Tutorial Self-Study
11. Incident Command and Control simulation series:
 - a) Tutorial
 - b) Ranch House Fire
 - c) Townhouse Fire
 - d) Mansion Fire

Continued on Page 4

COMPANY NEWS

Company 3:

Hitch-Van Praag Wedding

On Saturday, April 27th, two members of the Middleburg Volunteer Fire Department got “hitched” in a completely unconventional but utterly beautiful ceremony. Katherine Hitch, ST 371 who was also MVFD’s Rescue Chief in 2000 and 2001, married Walter Van Praag, who joined the department in 2001. What was unusual was that they were married high on a hill in Sky Meadow State Park (west of Upperville), surrounded by family, friends, dogs, and many children flying kites and blowing soap bubbles. The dress code was strictly informal – jeans and hiking shoes were the norm, even for the bride and groom. The bride carried a truly unique bouquet, dubbed the “stir-fry bouquet,” that was made up of an artichoke surrounded by snap peas, radishes, brussell sprouts, carrots, mushrooms, colorful peppers, shallots, lilac, broom, St. John’s Wort (in case things got stressful) and even a few roses, for tradition’s sake. The men’s boutonnieres were made up of a large radish with sprigs of broom and St. John’s Wort, wrapped in galax leaves. Katherine and Walter’s limousine from the ceremony at Sky Meadow State Park to the reception at the 1763 Inn was Ambulance 3-3, decorated with rosettes of Kling® on the front bumper and a banner reading “Just Married” across the back.

Katherine and Walter are

currently traveling around the American West before heading toward their eventual home in Australia, where Walter’s family lives. When they leave the States at the end of May they will travel first to England, then to the Netherlands (Walter is Dutch by birth) and then to China before finally arriving in Canberra, Australia.

We sincerely miss Katherine and Walter at Company 3, where Katherine recently completed Cardiac Tech training and consistently reigned as the person with the most calls run. Walter, who is a computer whiz and a PR pro, earned his EMT-B certification so that he could give his every Saturday night to run duty crew with Katherine. We will remember them for their dedication, perspective, skills, and most importantly for their sense of humor. We wish them the best for their adventurous future.

Submitted by Allie Love, Co. 3

Highlights—Fire Council Meeting on May 15, 2002

Communications is still working on problems with minitors and station alerting. Communications will be scheduling times that radio shop will be in stations to evaluate station radios and personnel minitors. Communications is also working with county purchasing and DIT to obtain software to design a response box system to replace the current grid system used to identify company response areas.

Incident Accountability Timer has been changed to every 10 minutes instead of 15. This was done to correspond with other Northern Virginia jurisdictions and the need to be more cognizant of elapsed time with lightweight construction.

Middleburg Fire-Rescue has obtained use of an abandoned structure west of town and have set it up with props to train Mayday FF Down scenarios. If anyone is interested in using the facility for training, contact Chief 3 or Career Captain Cromer.

Effective 1/1/2003 all members wishing to take FFI must successfully complete the following courses as a pre-requisite: CPR; HazMat Ops; LCFR Orientation; Bloodborne Pathogens; and EMS First Responder or EMT-B.

Members will be required to wear a “Red” helmet until these requirements are met and can not be counted as minimum staffing of fire apparatus.

Change dispatch announcements and tones to be the same at all times. Order would be: Station Tones, Pre-Alerts, Companies Due, Response Channel, Response Box #, Nature and Address.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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July 2002

Regularly Scheduled Monthly Meetings of the Loudoun County Fire & Rescue System

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Companies 1,3,5,6,11,16	2 Fire-Rescue Commission	3 Companies 13 & 17	4 Company 15	5	6
7 Company 14	8 Companies 2,7,8,9,12 BLS Committee	9 Rescue Chiefs Retention & Recruitment Committee	10 Company 10	11	12	13
14	15 Company 1 ALS Committee	16 EMS Council	17 Fire Council	18	19	20
21	22 Companies 4 & 8	23	24 Peer Review Committee	25	26	27
28	29	30 Fire-Rescue Commission Workshop	31			
FIRE & RESCUE SCHEDULED TRAINING						

AHA CPR-Healthcare Provider

Class #4-July 20, 2002

Class #5-August 18, 2002

Class #6-October 19, 2002

Class #7-December 8, 2002

Starts July 11, 2002:

Hazardous Materials: Operations

Ashburn Co. # 6

Pancake Breakfast

June 2, 2002

8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Basket Bingo

June 15, 2002

Doors Open at 6:30 p.m.

Continued from Page 2

- e) Casper Hall Dorm Fire
- f) StripMall Hostage/Arson Fire

A former Instructor once said, "You should never miss an opportunity to attend or receive training, especially when it is at no cost to you". Furthermore, the courses that I have completed were all great experiences. Do not miss a great opportunity to better yourselves within your Departments. The luxury of independent studying can open many doors as long as you continue your educational quest.

All of the Self-Study and CD-ROM courses can be viewed at the National Fire Academy website: www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa. From there, click on the Distance Education bullet and search the self-study and CD-ROM

categories. Some of the courses can be downloaded from the Internet and others have to be requested from the online publications catalog. Simply follow the directions for the courses you are interested in and complete the associated paperwork. At the completion of most of the courses, you can submit paperwork to receive a National Fire Academy certificate of course completion.

Should you have any questions about any of the above courses or need assistance in ordering, please contact me by E-mail at: kstiles@loudoun.gov. You are now on your way to a rewarding educational experience. Stay safe and good luck!

Submitted by Kevin Stiles, LCFR

Sterling Rescue NOVA TF-8 Disaster Task Force

Submitted by Wilma M. Grant, Administrative Member

Sterling Rescue - Company 15

Mission Tasking: Simulated Mass Casualty Incident
Location: Town of Smithville in Fort Pickett, VA
Dates: March 15-16, 2002
Deployed: Belinda Draugelis, Nicole Geiger, Wilma Grant, Sara Laughlin, Alyssa Menzenwerth, John Condon, Rick Laughlin, Bill Lyden, David Short, and Jeremy Whelpley.
Home contacts: Andrea Walter and April Perry

Ten members, from our 52-member task force deployed from Station 25 at 0400 Saturday on this training exercise. The group included 2 Firefighters, 1 SVRS Admin., 2 CT's, 1 ST, and 4 EMT's. We stashed gear and eagerly set off amid cheerful bantering by Chief Bob Lindblad and President Mike Gammill. We took one ALS/BLS ambulance, a medium duty squad truck, and the disaster response trailer which was stocked to the roof with medical supplies, baggage, extra food, etc. I climbed aboard an ambulance with EMT Sara Laughlin, our driver, and the "seasoned" folks jumped in back for a nap. The ride down I-95 was uneventful, except for an overheating engine on the ambulance and the disaster trailer being



weighed at the I-95 truck scales. We arrived at Ft. Pickett's gate (guarded by MP's, jersey barriers, tank traps and a fierce-looking tank) several hours later, gassed up, and we ready for action. We parked beside ambulances and rescue vehicles from all over the state, impressive! This was a first for some of the NOVA TF-8 members and we were raring to get into the thick of things.

Surprise... First items on the agenda were safety and the helicopter briefings which were already in full swing when we arrived at 0830. The room was packed with fire/rescue personnel sporting various task force tee-shirts honoring their company's TF call #s. Incident Commander Rick Laughlin provided information on equipment, staffing, radio call signs, etc. to our TF unit leaders. We learned, from safety officers who wear florescent vests w/silver tape, not to pick up anything on this base, not to go into the woods, and that we'd see live ammo on the ground as this was, after all, a fully operational army training camp, and there were plenty of soldiers in the woods, practicing with 20mm mortars. Unit commanders were to set radios to 155.250. Did we even have radios? Massage therapists on site for the battle weary. Yeah, this was *my* kind of a disaster. Don't move victims. Report injuries immediately. All lashes and knots for rope operations must be visualized by 2 people on each team and by a safety officer. Everyone to wear safety shoes and hats, goggles, gloves, and carry flashlights and spare batteries. Drink only water or Gatorade in order to stay well hydrated. Eat when you can. Camp out or sleep in army barracks tonight. Chemical warfare, antidote kits, radiological capabilities, satellite phone systems, helicopter and airplane availability were all discussed. A flight crew arrived in khaki jump suits just as I noticed an unusual black mold all over the ceilings in the barracks-style room. How healthy was that? We were also getting bleary-eyed having traveled for many hours to get there. Establish a ground and landing zone (LZ) coordinator and make

sure the helicopter landing pad is at least 100 ft. square. Advise team members of any landing hazards in the copter staging area. Take us to a hotel for sleep....ZZZZ. At this point, Walter Green of the Virtual Ops. Ctr. noticed we all needed a pick-me-up and ordered the masses to “stand up, turn around 3 times, and get your full butt muscles to function.” Well I guess it beats massaging each other’s backs, and my butt muscles are none of his business. Wait....did I just see a bunch of teenagers going into the building next door? Later we were to learn that these were ROTC student “disaster victims” and they were going to have makeup applied to their bodies – plastic entrails, wounds and lots of fake blood. Other plastic dismembered body parts would also be found on our travels in town. Adrenalin was surging already folks, thank goodness it was an exercise and not the real thing.

Critical needs: Know what you are responding to. Is gas available for vehicles in disaster area? Are roads open? Have you determined an alternate route? Radio phones are very critical communications tool. Know your emergency call sign. Know your team members, list their names, know their certifications, keep track of them and pre-mark and track your equipment. Pickup copies of Smithville maps – there was only one left for our 3 vehicles – my chance to prove my worth as logistics support and I did. Are you aware of www.virtualeoc.org – if not you should be (check it out – find “situation reports” area – SITREPS are issued daily.)? Smithville is an actual “town” used by the Army for urban warfare training.

Finally . . . the situation in Smithville: During a protest demonstration an explosive device was detonated, creating a mass casualty incident. Initial responders were injured in the explosion or encountered sniping, delaying the initial response. Search, rescue, triage, treatment, and transportation has been completed.

Forecast: The potential exists for additional explosions. Local emergency declared by County. State emergency declared by Governor. Town evacuated as precaution in case of other explosions, and shelters are opened. Multiple task forces, physician strike team, coordination teams, control strike team, and massage therapy strike team, have all been alerted. [Virtual EOC reported the estimated disaster cost \$5M; 123 persons displaced; 23 injuries: 12 red, 8 yellow, 3 green]. Teams are now being dispersed to town . . . everyone rushing to ambulances.

Alert: Make sure you have a good navigator checking the map...several ambulances drove off in the wrong direction. Eventually all made it to “town”. Our disaster vehicle and van were deployed to staging area. Ambulance deployed to hardware store in center of town. A sniper patient was suddenly found lying on ground near staging area – our team rushed to assist, backboard also unloaded. Other teams arriving and rushing hither and beyond, everyone assigned specific duties: search buildings, track team, locate and care for patients, move patients and they were dropping like flies from all directions. *Nova TF-8 move immediately to helicopter staging area and provide support there* – where is the map . . . locate area, is road open, get there ASAP. Both staged vehicles moved to the other side of town, passing school busses, ambulances, burned out or damaged buildings, and other crews rendering aid to disaster victims.

TV crews: Several were on site as were reporters and other official onlookers. Everyone seemed filled with a true sense of purpose . . . this was *real* to them. Settled in the staging area and out of our vehicles which were parked between multiple buildings, faint cries for help emanated from one building. I was taking photos and notes for our crew and thought it strange that no one responded. Rick? Why is no one responding? He responded that you “Stay where you can do the greater good for the most victims!” I should have read those advance notes more clearly. The helicopter was arriving and patients were to be picked up...our team was in action again. I wondered aloud how Sara and crew were doing. Another team arrived seeking backboards. NOVA-8 was well-equipped and helped out many other teams that day. I tracked every backboard. The helicopter took off. “*Help*” came the anguished cries, over and over again. Ambulance crews were picking up patients all around us but not at that building yet. At this point several of our crew were redeployed to care for patients at another building. I stopped to take a photo at the building on the opposite side of our vehicles - it looked like it was riddled with bullets - in fact all the buildings around us looked like scenes from Lebanon or Palestine. I was startled to see, lying in the rubble a disjointed woman – on closer look it was a plastic mannequin. Crews were walking past her. I guess they figured she was dead. David Short and Rick walked up. David motioned with his head toward the mannequin

and Rick responded “DRT!”. Both faces wore a bemused look and they began to walk away. I called out asking them what that meant (I spent half my time there deciphering such Fire/Rescue acronyms). They explained that DRT meant “Dead Right There.” Made sense then to me too. They came back and “black”-banded the one arm still attached to her body. The helicopter arrived again and camera crews began to position themselves near the helipad. “*Help!*” Geez . . . the poor ROTC kid must be bored to death in there and tired of waiting for rescue team. At last a team arrived that were assigned to search buildings, they did so methodically. We heard many more cries for help before they reached that poor patient. One thing I learned is that it is *very* difficult to concentrate on other things when someone is calling for help. It is also difficult to hold back from going to assist them.

Evacuate . . . Bomb scare. Everyone to leave the area immediately. Helicopter took off. Ambulances packed up patients and gear and shot out of there in response. Once back at staging area, we collected all our team members, and were directed to head out for lunch. I think we’d all put food to the back of our minds because excitement had been all around us and we were in the middle of it all. Sara’s ambulance passed us with lights flashing – she had a code red patient. Eventually we all made it back and ate a late lunch of grill-cooked burgers, fixings etc. Then we moved our gear to another barracks where we planned to stay overnight. There were guys in ground floor rooms so we ladies had to climb 2 flights of stairs and haul our gear to the top floor bunk rooms. Barracks accommodations they were. Bed, mattress, locker, footlocker, showers without curtains, toilets – all in the same room. Most of us had been up all day Friday and all night and were dead tired. The young crew members – they were all young to me, looked hesitantly at the beds. This was no 5-star hotel. They appeared to be uncomfortable, not their usual quality of accommodations. I served 3 years in the military many years ago so I’ve adjusted. Let’s face it, you adjust or get out of the military, *if* you are lucky. They were worried about bugs – I was thinking, my God, outside you’d have snakes, lots of bugs, and artillery . . . this was heaven.

Everyone relaxed or caught a nap for 2 hrs. Wash-up and off to dinner, chicken or pork chops, veggies, dessert and door prize drawings. Almost everyone in our group won something, tee shirts, rescue gear, etc. The ROTC kids had also been fed and cleaned up, got neat tee shirts, and they went home. Some squads were leaving. Leaving? We were supposed to be deployed for 48 hrs. Our team had mixed feelings because of tiredness and the sleeping arrangements. We know next time to get in there early and find best accommodations. Wait, Rick was called to Incident Commanders meeting. Our team tidied up vehicles. Rick came back to advise that we’d stay for night exercises. Within minutes came official notification that there was an explosion at a gas station nearby, all of our vehicles were deployed and two of our vehicles and medic crews participated in that rescue operation along with many other TF companies and crews.

Bill Lyden and I remained on call in the van . . . and were discussing “incident commander” duties and he said he would like to try that. Someone very powerful was listening, because an official immediately walked up to our van, pointed his index finger at him and said -- a vehicle just crashed into that wall, YOU are the incident commander, take care of it and newly-anointed OIC Lyden and I were on our way. Upon arrival we found one patient lying on the ground (apparently ejected from the vehicle upon impact) and another patient slumped over the steering wheel. No one else was in the vehicle. I’m thinking to myself, “I’m an Admin. Member”, thank God Bill knows what he is doing. He checked the first patient and then had me stay with that patient as he checked the other. Absolutely no other rescue personnel were to be seen. We were it! Well, we came for action. Bill mentioned that my patient was unconscious and for me to check his pulse, watch his breathing while he checked the other guy. He was determining which patient was more critical. I knelt and felt for his pulse . . . and of course it was beating (this was an exercise after all). I’m wondering in a real emergency what would I do. I thought Bill said something about my patient’s stomach but did not hear him properly and wondered if I should loosen his shirt and check him out. I decided to err on the side of caution and waited for Bill to get back. An ambulance arrived at this point and I think I was praying by then. My patient was a good actor – he looked dead. The medic checked out my patient and said something about “his lungs have collapsed” and I thought “Oh! S*%#”. He was the most critical. I was instructed to hold patient’s head while a neck brace was applied and then to hold his head steady while his back was checked and then he was back boarded. I was to call the #s: 1 – 2 – 3 Up, 1 – 2 – 3 Down as

~~My back hobbled and dim.~~ My
~~Knees felt like they~~ would cave
in at any minute and I needed to
spend a penny . . . how do op-
erational members do this? Four
of us lifted the patient and car-
ried him to the ambulance. Dur-
ing the day each patient had
been lifted by four crew mem-
bers – a requirement. Bill’s pa-
tient was loaded next. Incident
Commander Bill performed ad-
mirably in my humble opinion.
His non-medical assistant, me,
felt like having a heart attack.
But I felt proud as punch that I
was able to help and I walked
cross-legged up the hill to our
ambulance.

No more exercises planned

The group decision was to return
to Sterling - some of our crew
had worked Friday evening,
some were to work Sunday eve-
ning. We hurried back to the
barracks . . . packed . . . and
winded our way home. I much
admiration for young Nicole as
she drove the van back, tired
though she may be, and the driv-
ers of our other vehicles. The
ambulance again overheated on
the way home and Rick in-

spected the engine and then
cooled it off while we had a rest
break. We arrived back at Sta-
tion 25 around 0400, too tired to
be hungry, unloaded our gear,
parked and locked up the vehi-
cles and headed for home.

This was a most enriching ex-
perience and great team spirit
was within each one of us and all
around us within every single
group. These selfless folks con-
tinue to amaze me and I value
this unique learning opportunity
which I thought to share with
you.

CAD Streets Added or Amended in April 2002

Ashburn Station, Co.6 1st Due Area:

Ashburn Station Pl

Glen Castle Ct

Haven Crest Wy

Ashburn Village, Co.6 1st Due Area:

Colecroft Sq
Conesus Tr
Harwich Tr
Killawog Tr
Livonia Tr
Marblehead Tr
Potter Tr

Tyrone Tr

Watertown Tr

Westmont Tr

Howards Farm, Co.2/Co.14 1st

Due Area:

Howards Farm Ln

Lenah Run, Co.7/Ambulance 9

1st Due Area:

Autumn Oak Ln

Hickory Ridge Pl

Old Oak Ln

Rolling View Pl

Sunny Meadow Pl

Walnut Hill Pl

Raspberry Falls, Co.1/Co.13 1st

Due Area:

Putters Green Ct

Swiftwater Ct

Town of Leesburg, Co.1/Co.13

1st Due Area:

Sweet William Ct SE

Town of Purcellville, Co.2/Co.14

1st Due Area:

O.T. Dr

Whitehall – Rivers Edge LLC,

Co.12 1st Due Area:

Catoctin View Ln

Potomac Heights Ln

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Loudoun County Fire-Rescue Services
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Leesburg, Virginia 20175

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